

Washington State EMERGENCY NEWS/Mitigation & Preparedness



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State, Federal teams to survey winter storm damages to public facilities

Camp Murray, Wash. – Joint State-Federal teams began today to assess winter storm damages to public facilities in 12 Washington counties to determine if the damages support a federal disaster request.

Two person teams will survey damages that occurred between Jan. 27 and Feb. 4, 2006, in Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pacific, Pend Oreille, San Juan, Snohomish, Thurston and Wahkiakum counties.

The survey will look at damages to such facilities as county roads, public water systems, and public utility systems. Tim Clark, Washington Emergency Management Division assistant director, said the state should know by Mar. 1 if the state's public facility damages warrant a federal disaster declaration request from Gov. Chris Gregoire to President George W. Bush.

Clark, who acted last week on behalf of EMD Director Jim Mullen who was attending a National Emergency Management Association conference, sent the joint survey request Feb. 14 to Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 10 Director John Pennington.

Clark added that initial damage reports from local jurisdictions indicated that there was insufficient uninsured storm damage to individual homes, residences and small businesses to warrant a federal disaster request for assistance to individuals and households or a request for physical disaster loans for homeowners, renters, and non-farm businesses from the U.S. Small Business Administration. Individuals and businesses that have damages that were not reported need to contact their local emergency management office.

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